

REMARKS

Claims 20-26, 29-30, and 38-39 are currently pending.

Claims 20, 24, 25, 29 and 30 have been amended without the introduction of new matter.

Addressing the formal grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2nd ¶) set forth in item No. 5 on pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action, Applicants have amended Claim 20 to make it clear that the “at least one microelectrode” is part of the “electrode arrangement”. Further, Claim 24 has been amended to provide great clarity. The narrowing structural limitation is here expressed in terms of a functionality of the curved microelectrodes.

Claims 25, 29 and 30 have been amended to clarify that the microelectrodes are part of the microelectrodes of the electrode arrangement and not, as the Examiner indicated might not have otherwise been clear, “in addition to the microelectrode of Claim 20 and 39”. Further, Claim 25 has been amended to overcome the alleged lack of an antecedent basis for the term “separate track[s]”.

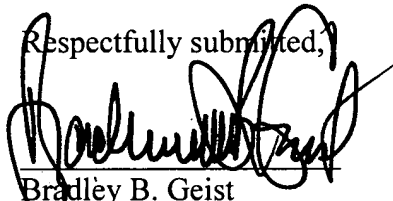
In the circumstances, all formal grounds of rejection are now believed to be moot. On the merits, the Examiner has rejected Claims 20-24, 29[/20], 38/20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Fiedler et al. See item No. 7 on pages 5 and 6 of the Official Action. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendment to Claim 20 wherein the curvature of the microelectrode band-shape is “along its length”. Applicants contend that this feature of the present invention is shown in most of the figures presented in the application; and as such is believed to render Claim 20 patentably distinct from Fiedler et al. which illustrates a “band electrode with a parabolic tip” and not a “band-shaped electrode with a parabolic curvature along its length.”

Since all of the remaining claims that stand rejection under §102(a) depend directly or indirectly from Claim 20, which claim is now believed to overcome the anticipation rejection based on Fiedler et al., Applicants do not believe it is necessary to comment on the Examiner's specific arguments addressed to Claims 21, 22, 23, 24, 29/20 and 38/20, set forth on pages 5-6 of the Official Action.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's conditional allowance of Claims 25 and 30 and the unconditional allowance of Claim 39.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully seek the Examiner's favorable consideration of the presently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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